10; Marshall M-5 (ca. 1910) 1945 AP1 Burma
Karen AP7

533 Trained choirs have sung in the cities before exact
177 audiences and have won praise. Because of their for
experiences of being subjected to exploitation, they h
taken to the American Negro spirituals and sing th
with a great deal of expression. Here again they h
adapted some of these to their own life and composed
tunes and songs to fit their own conditions. Probably
suffering of these war years will further develop their
music.

173 To the Karen the golden age was in the dim past.
was the old men who were wise. They say: "The ge
●183 ration gone before had wisdom. Now we are but childr
Therefore the customs that have come down to us
sacred and cannot be broken without great danger."

They are hedged about with taboos many of wh
they hold so tenaciously that they are still more or
in the grip of their fears; and while this lasts progr
will be slow if not almost impossible. Those who m
the big break and became Christians have a differ
attitude and yet, even with them, the old customs h
not entirely lost their hold.

943 Their fear of change prevents improved methods
183 living. This is especially true in the hills where for
told generations they have followed the *taung-ya* (mo
tain cultivation). This involved the sacrifice of a fr
piece of forest each year for their rice fields. When ur
to adopt a more economic method, such as terracing
rotation of crops, they would reply that their fathers
grandfathers grew rice by this method, and being p
ignorant Karens they could not do any differently.